

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A home agent assigns disjoint ranges of port numbers to mobile nodes that share a global IP address. In response to a registration request message from a mobile node, the home agent transmits to the mobile node its assigned range of port numbers, as an extension to a registration
5 reply message. The home agent maintains data records for the mobile nodes that have registered with it, wherein a data record for a mobile node includes its global IP address, its assigned range of port numbers, and its current address. When the home agent receives data packets destined for one of these registered mobile nodes, as determined from the destination address and destination port number specified in the data packets, the home agent forwards the data packets to the current address listed in the mobile node's data record.